

ARE WE BETTER OFF

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, are we better off today than we were 4 years ago? If you live in Nevada, the answer is no. The number of Nevadans living in poverty has increased by 11,000. The family income in Nevada has dropped by \$1,511; 82,000 Nevadans lost their health insurance. There are now 400,000 Nevadans who live every day without health insurance. They pray they do not get sick. Those who are lucky enough to have health insurance saw their premiums go up by an average of 3,229. What working family can afford that?

Gas prices in Nevada are the highest in the Nation; 26,717 Nevadans filed bankruptcy in 2003. That is a 48 percent increase since Bush became President. Nevada has the strongest economy in the United States. So if people are suffering in the State of Nevada, can you just imagine what is going on in the rest of the country.

After 4 years it is time for new leadership in the White House who will fight for all Nevadans and who will fight for you.

BAD MEMORY

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last night Vice President CHENEY was let out of his bunker for the night, and it seems all that time in an undisclosed location has confused him a bit about the facts. Last night he said he had never publicly stated that there was a connection between al Qaeda and Iraq. Does he forget his interview with Tim Russert last year in which he said just that? Does he also forget now it is a common statement in his political stump speeches where he tries to invoke fear in Americans?

I think he has determined his record with Bush is so bad that the only thing he can do is strike fear in the American people.

Vice President CHENEY also said last night that he had never met Senator EDWARDS before. That is simply not true. Just turn on any news outlet today and you will see the proof, pictures of CHENEY and EDWARDS standing side by side at a prayer breakfast last year. I suspect as the day goes on we will see more and more of these pictures.

Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY and President Bush cannot lead this country if they continue to mislead the American people.

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last night Vice President CHENEY said he was proud of the record in Iraq, and this is exactly what he said: "We did in Iraq what was exactly the right thing to do, and I recommend it all over again, I would."

And yet in today's Washington Post we learned that the most definitive accounts of Iraq's arms programs will show that Saddam Hussein possessed a diminishing threat at the time the United States invaded and did not possess or have concrete plans to develop nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

This investigation found that the state of Hussein's weapon development program and knowledge was less advanced in 2003 when the war began than it was in 1998 when the international inspectors left Iraq. The fact of the matter is over 1,000 Americans have died in this war; thousands and thousands of Americans have been wounded; thousands and thousands of Iraqis have been killed and wounded, and they have been killed or wounded in a war of choice because Iraq was not an imminent threat to the United States. But this administration chose, in spite of all of the evidence to go to war, to put our young people at risk and to lose their lives because they wanted to manipulate the evidence. They wanted to manipulate the war on terror, and they wanted to frighten this Nation.

Mr. Vice President, if you had to do it all over again, I hope you would not.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The Chair would remind Members that remarks should be addressed to the Chair and not to the Vice President.

AID FOR HAITI

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss very briefly the devastation of Tropical Storm Jeanne on Haiti. The lack of infrastructure and our failed United States policies quite frankly helped contribute to leaving the Haitian people vulnerable to the devastation of Tropical Storm Jeanne which took the lives of over 2,000 Haitians. In Haiti's flood-torn cities, children sleep on tin roofs because flood waters have not subsided; gun shots are heard in darkness as thieves and thugs continue to steal from the people and cheat them of their chance for protection and peace. Men and women dig mass graves scrambling to identify the bodies of lost loved ones. Children are not going to school. Women do not have food for their families.

With so many casualties and so many sick, so many still missing and

much despair, what can we do? What can the greatest superpower, the wealthiest country in the world do for our neighbors next door? We must provide a real commitment to help Haitians. We must provide a way to help with the basic services of food and shelter as well as the restoration of democracy. We must support \$500 million to build the region, to take a more comprehensive and democratic approach to our policies toward Haiti.

FLORIDA VOTER SUPPRESSION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the time is nearing, as we have listened to the candidates for office of President and Vice President of the United States, we are reminded that this may be in fact the most important election in our history. It may begin to change the course of history for this Nation and begin to put us on the right course.

So today I rise, Mr. Speaker, to remind Americans that every vote is precious. Why again in the State of Florida has voter suppression risen again as has been raised by my colleagues from Florida, particularly the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Again we have the State of Florida attacking individuals who are trying to vote and to register to vote. Now we find out in the State of Florida that even after thousands have registered to vote, what do you have but the government suggesting that those registration cards will be deemed illegal and will be deemed where the voters will not be able to vote. Why? Because somebody did not check a box, an unnecessary box, a box that the law does not say that they have to check.

I do not understand, Mr. Speaker, why again we have Florida in the center of the eye of the storm, unfortunately, the eye of the storm of suppressing voters in the United States of America. We are all going to be in Florida. We are all going to make sure that people are able to vote, and we are all going to make sure that this is an election that is fair. Our lives depend on it.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
WEEK

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this week is Mental Health Awareness Week and still the mental health parity legislation supported by 249 representatives, 70 Senators and 369 national organizations is bottled up.

The leadership of this House, which refuses to bring up this popular legislation for a vote, is sentencing millions of Americans to joblessness and underemployment. Mental illnesses are treatable and individuals with mental illnesses are frequently able to hold down good jobs as productive members of society, but only if they are treated.

As the Chicago Tribune reported several years ago, employees who are depressed are twice as likely to take time off for health reasons as employees who are not depressed and are seven times more likely to be less productive on the job.

President Bush's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health found a shocking 90 percent unemployment rate among individuals with serious mental illnesses, while also finding that most of them could work with just modest supports.

The American Dream is not just for those lucky enough to live free of disease and disability. During this mental health awareness week, I call on this House to finally at long last pass mental health parity.

□ 1030

DISASTER RELIEF

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, later today we will take up the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for the year 2005. It is a help, but it is simply not enough. From today's newspapers, we learn that the four hurricanes which struck over 6 weeks have wiped out thousands of jobs and billions of dollars' worth of property. Economists estimate that that is the case.

The hurricanes caused parts of 10 eastern States from Florida to Vermont to be declared Federal disaster areas. The storms destroyed or seriously damaged many hotels, restaurants, stores, factories and other businesses while temporarily closing seaports, harbors, theme parks and other tourist destinations. Insurance payments will be as much as \$23 billion.

I call on the House of Representatives to get past this set of disasters and realize that there will be others, and to establish in this Congress a disaster relief fund and a separate jurisdiction dealing specifically with disaster relief from drought to fires, to storms, to earthquakes and whatever may occur in our Nation.

IRAQI ARMS THREAT

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Post reports that at the

time this administration brought us to war in Iraq, Saddam Hussein posed not the gathering threat that President Bush and Vice President CHENEY continue to claim he was, but rather, a diminishing one.

The findings of the chief U.S. weapons inspector in Iraq are but one more example of a President and a Vice President intent on misleading the American people into war and blind to the realities of Iraq today. This comes one day after the startling admission by the former head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, Paul Bremer, that we did not have enough troops on the ground after the invasion to guard sensitive areas like weapons stockpiles. Today, those very weapons are being used against our troops by militants and by terrorists.

At every step of the way, determining the threat level posed by Saddam, how much the war would cost, how many casualties America would bear, George Bush and DICK CHENEY have been consistent, consistently wrong. As we saw last night and last Thursday in the debates, George Bush and DICK CHENEY are incapable of fixing Iraq because they refuse to see the mess that they have created there.

They refuse to see the mess that they have created in the U.S. economy.

The American people? They see it every single day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The Chair must remind all Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities toward the President and the Vice President or the acknowledged candidates for those offices. Policies may be addressed in critical terms, but personal references of an offensive or accusatory nature are not proper.

READY FOR CHANGE

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I am not surprised that the Vice President did not know that he knew Senator EDWARDS, because it seems to me that there are a lot of things that they know but do not say.

They did not know that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but we went to war anyway. They did not know that trickle-down would not solve the Nation's economic problems. They promote it anyway. They did not know that senior citizens need a real prescription drug program, but they sham it anyway.

They may not know that the American people are ready for change, but they are, and we shall see in a little bit.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5107, JUSTICE FOR ALL ACT OF 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 823 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 823

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5107) to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; (2) the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for twenty minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this morning the Rules Committee met and granted a modified closed rule for H.R. 5107, the Justice for All Act. The measure is a combination of a House-passed bill, H.R. 3214, expanding DNA testing to catch more criminals and to allow wrongly convicted people a chance to prove their innocence, and a Senate-passed bill, S. 2329, that improves victims' rights.

I am also very pleased that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) included a manager's amendment to address Members' concerns and the Department of Justice, as well as victims' rights groups' concerns. H.R. 3214 passed the House in November, 2003, by a 357-67 margin. S. 2329 passed the Senate in April 2004 on a 96-1 vote.

Regarding the crimes victims portion of this bill, the legislation seeks to remedy the apparent disparity between